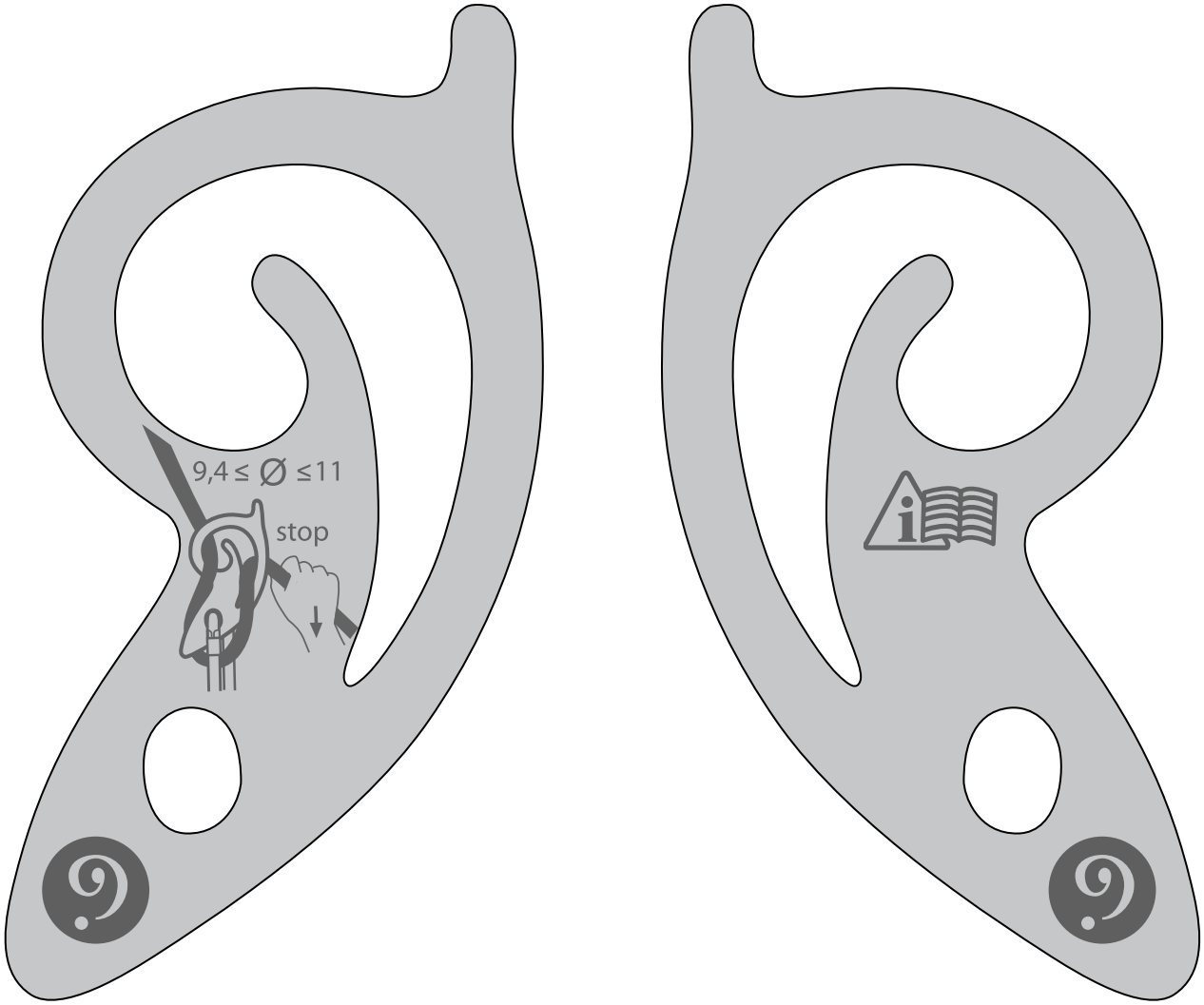
THE

ASSISTED BRAKING BELAY DEVICE FOR SINGLE ROPES

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

ALL USERS SHOULD READ THIS BOOKLET AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.



THE 9

ASSISTED BRAKING BELAY DEVICE FOR SINGLE ROPES

Right-handed position

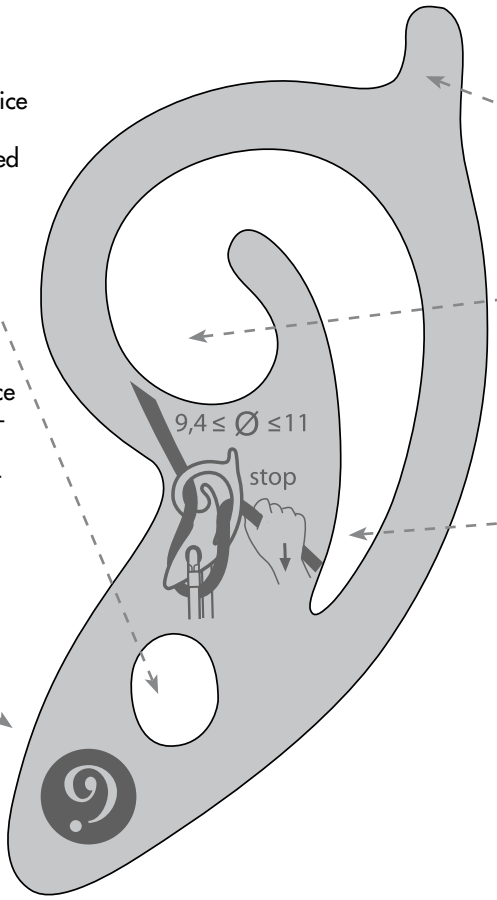
Left-handed position

DESCRIPTION

• The "9" is a belay device for the leader or the second, this device is made for indoor and outdoor climbing on well equipped routes with anchors conforming to UIAA standards.
• In this manual the "9" will be referred to as either the "9" or the "device".
• The "9" assists braking by trapping the braking side of the rope in a V-Shaped Slot (3); the braking side of the rope must be held at all times.
•The "9" must be used with a UIAA certified, flexible, dynamic, single rope which is between 9.1mm and 11.0mm in diameter.
•It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that they are competent and safe in the use of this device. These instructions are not a substitute for proper training.
•Before use, always check the integrity of the device.
•The "9" is adaptable for use by left-handed people; simply turn the device!
•This device is suitable for low weight and low fall factors.
•The "9" can be used for canyoning in dry canyons but is Prohibited for use in wet canyons.

1
Carabiner Hole
•Use a pear-shaped carabiner through this hole to attach the device to the belay loop of your harness
•Clip the rope into the pear-shaped carabiner

2
Lower Horn
•The rope must pass behind this to allow a smooth braking action
•Allows the rope to be held in place be being squeezed by the non-braking hand against the Lower Horn when shifting between the different functions of the device

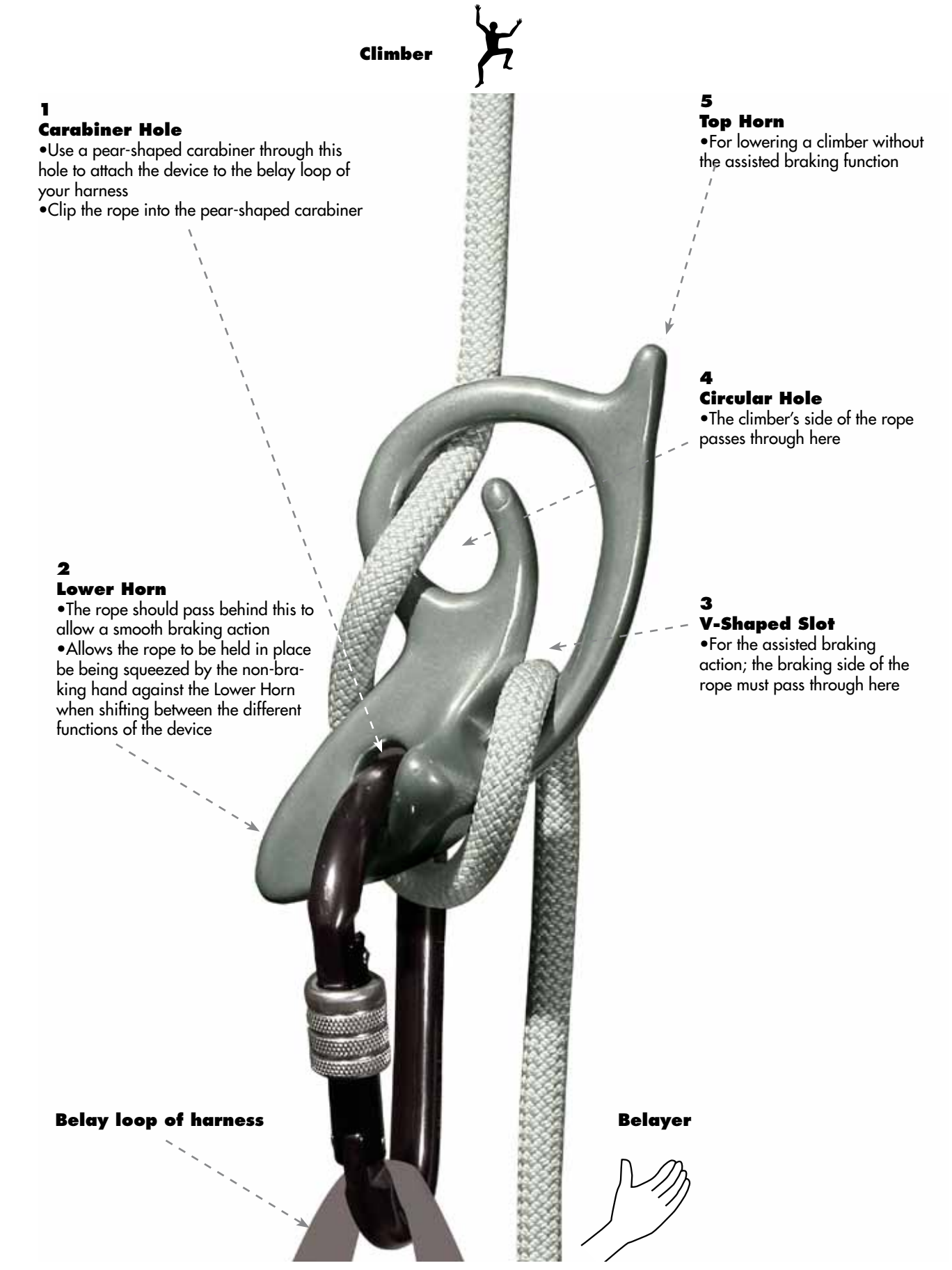


5
Top Horn
•For lowering a climber without the assisted braking function

4
Circular Hole
•The climber's side of the rope passes through here

3
V-Shaped Slot
•For the assisted braking action; the braking side of the rope must pass through here

INSTALLING THE DEVICE

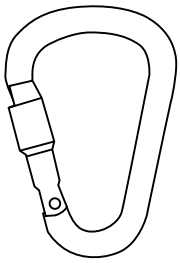


1 GENERAL INFORMATION :

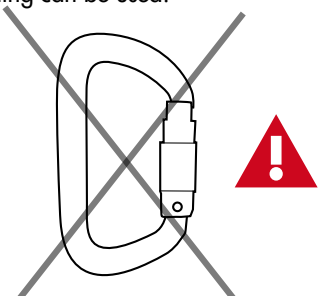
- This instruction manual must be read and understood before the device can be used effectively.
- Before using this device, the user should consider all the necessary handling techniques in case difficulties occur.
- Climbing is a potentially dangerous activity with the risk of injury or death. Participants in this activity should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that they are competent in the use of this device.
- The "9" assists braking by trapping the braking side of the rope in a V-Shaped Slot (3); the braking side of the rope must be held at all times.
- The "9" must be used with a UIAA certified, flexible, dynamic, single rope which is between 9.1mm and 11.0mm in diameter.
- All activities marked as "Prohibited" must not be done as they may result in the malfunction of the device, injury or death.
- Every other use of the device, not mentioned in this instruction manual, is Prohibited.
- The images engraved on the device only show the Traditional Position for installing the rope (for right-handed use).

2 INSTALLING THE "9" ON THE HARNESS :

- Install the device using a locking pear-shaped HMS carabiner
- D-shaped carabiners are Prohibited as the rope may get trapped causing the device to malfunction.
- A belay carabiner which prevents cross-loading can be used.



Pear-shaped locking HMS carabiner



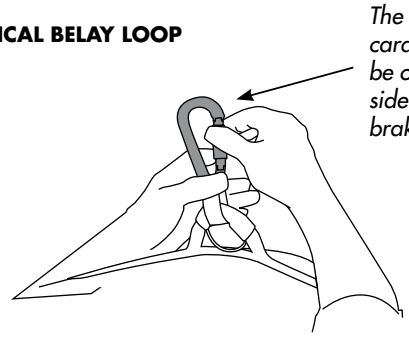
D-shaped carabiner: Prohibited

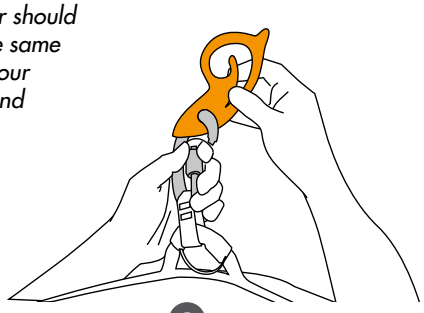
2 INSTALLING THE "9" ON THE HARNESS

2.1 HARNESS WITH A VERTICAL BELAY LOOP

1

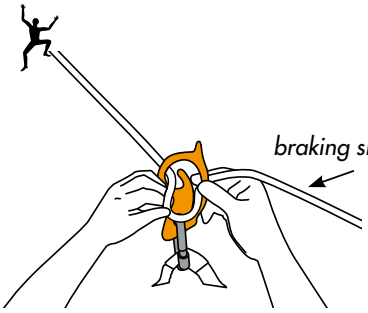
Clip the carabiner onto the harness orientated horizontally

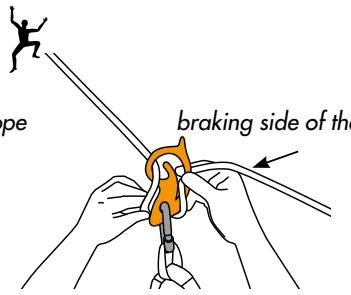




2

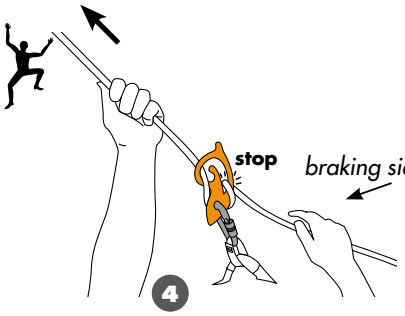
Clip the "9" onto the carabiner with the Top Horn (5) on the lower side of the device.





3

Install the rope.

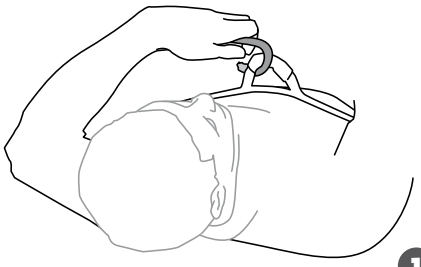


4

Check

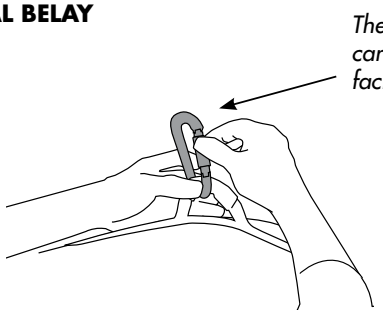
tug the climber's side of the rope upwards with your non-braking hand whilst leaving your braking hand below the device, relaxed, without gripping the rope to check the function of the system.

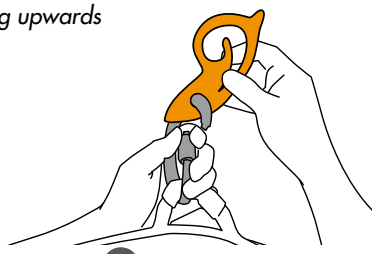
2.2 HARNESS WITH HORIZONTAL BELAY LOOP



1

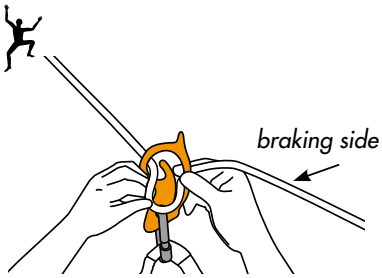
Clip the carabiner onto the harness orientated vertically

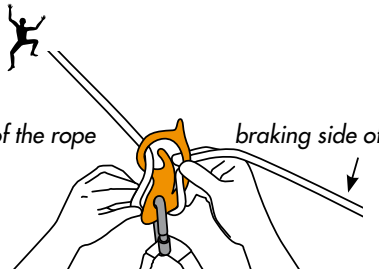




2

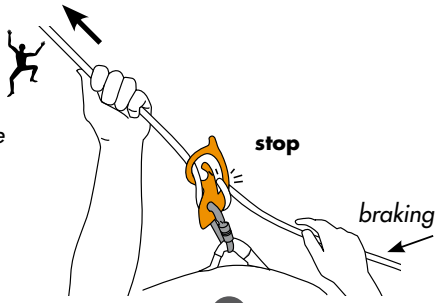
Clip the "9" with the Top Horn (5) on the right for right-handed people or on the left for left-handed people.





3

Install the rope.



4

Check

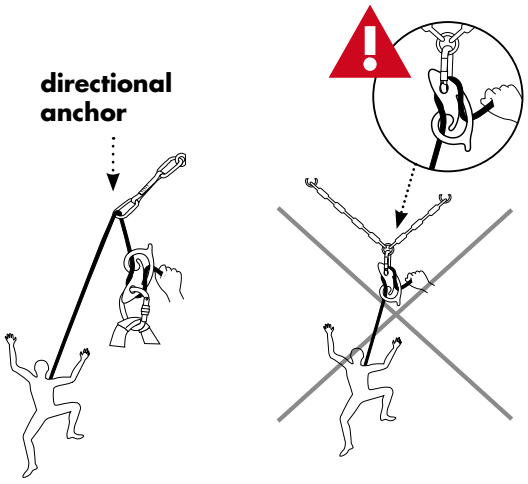
tug the climber's side of the rope upwards with your non-braking hand whilst leaving your braking hand below the device, relaxed, without gripping the rope to check the function of the system.

Attention : Ropes must be flexible; stiff ropes may cause the device to malfunction

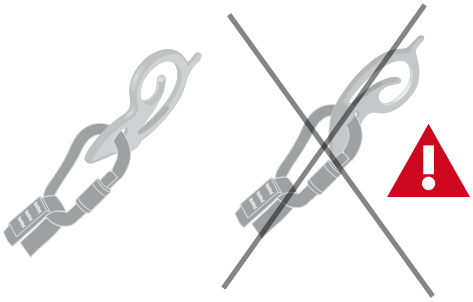
2 INSTALLING THE "9" ON THE HARNESS / CONTINUED

• Installing and removing the rope from the "9" can be done without removing the device from the carabiner which can remain attached to the harness.

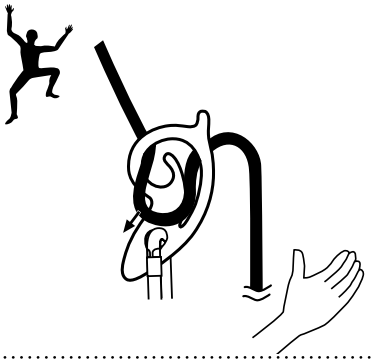
•It is Prohibited to attach the "9" directly to the belay. The "9" must be attached to the belay loop of the belayer's harness and the rope must pass through a directional anchor above the belayer when bringing up a second or when the leader leaves the belay on a multi-pitch climb.



• When installed on a harness with a vertical belay loop and the "9" is in a vertical position, you must ensure that the Top Horn (5) is on the lower side of the device to ensure better braking function in case the rope is accidentally released from the braking hand.



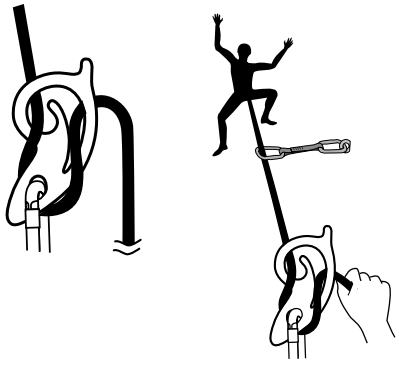
3 INSATALLING THE ROPE: The Traditional Position



• Place the rope on the same side of your body as your braking hand (i.e. on the right-hand side for right-handed people).

• Install the rope by passing a loop of rope into the "9" then clipping the loop into the pear-shaped carabiner.

• Place the loop of rope behind the Lower Horn (2), this will provide good braking friction.



• The climber's side of the rope must pass through the Circular Hole (4) and the braking side of the rope must pass through the V-Shaped Slot (3) to be in position.

N.B. for stiffer ropes we recommend the Rapid Position, with all the advice and reservations of its use (see chapter 10 Rapid Position)

3 INSTALLING THE ROPE / CONTINUED

• It is Prohibited to thread the rope around the "9" like a traditional "8" belay device.
The rope must be clipped into the pear-shaped carabiner.

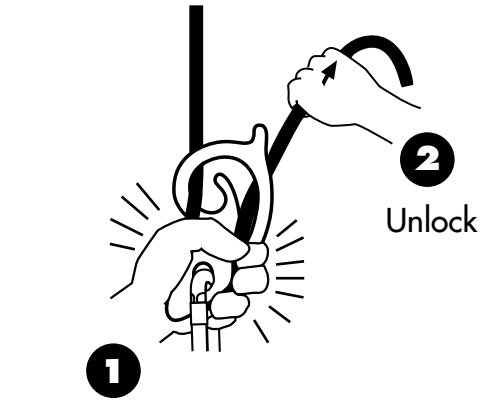
• It is Prohibited to pass the braking side of the rope through the Circular Hole (4) of the device; always ensure the braking side of the rope passes through the V-Shaped Slot (3).

Always check that the device has been correctly installed

• Tug the climber's side of the rope upwards with your non-braking hand whilst leaving your braking hand below the device, relaxed, without gripping the rope to check the function of the system.

4 4 GETTING STARTED : techniques to learn

• **The Squeeze Technique:**
To use the different applications of the "9" described in this user manual it is necessary to know the Squeeze Technique which allows you to change the rope position whilst holding the rope in place by squeezing it against the Lower Horn (2) of the device .



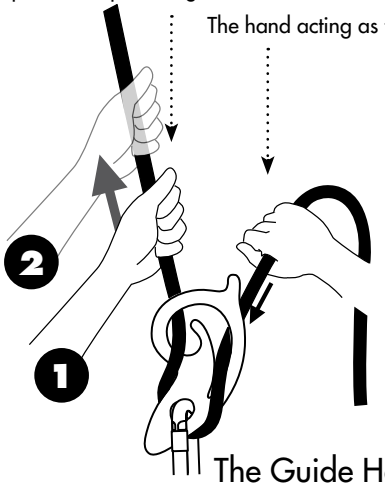
The Squeeze Technique

Squeezing the rope against the Lower Horn (2) of the device to hold it in place.

• **The Guide Hand Technique :**
In order to be able to give out lots of rope you must prevent the "9" from locking whilst pulling the rope through the device. This can be done by keeping your braking hand above the device to act as a guide for the braking side of the rope (keeping it out the V-Shaped Slot (3)) whilst pulling the climber's side of the rope out of the device with your non-braking hand.

The hand on the climber's side of the rope pulls the rope through the device

The hand acting as the guide does not move



The Guide Hand Technique

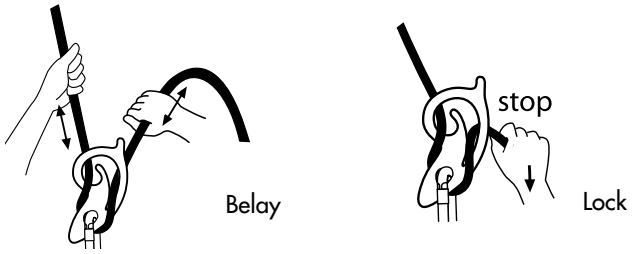
The hand on the braking side of the rope is held above the device.

5 BELAYING : always hold the braking side of the rope.

- The "9" must be used with a UIAA certified, flexible, dynamic, single rope which is between 9.1mm and 11.0mm in diameter.

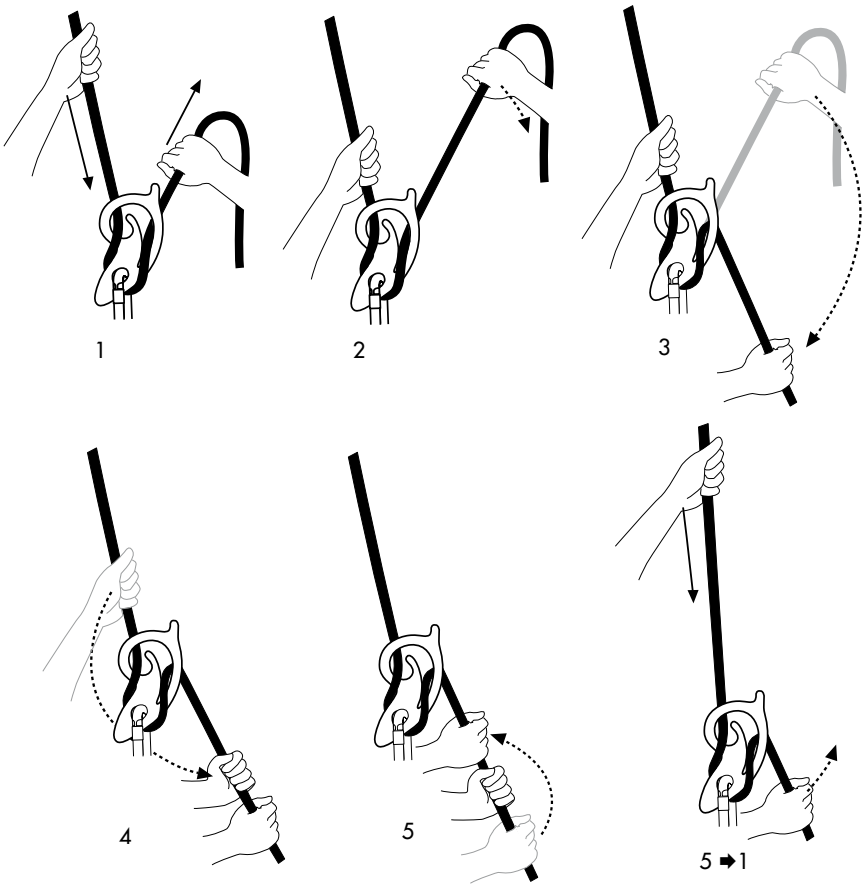
- The assisted braking, locking and unlocking functions of the device should always be checked before use. It is recommended to place the loop of rope behind the Lower Horn (2) as this will provide good braking friction.

The braking side of the rope must be held at all times.



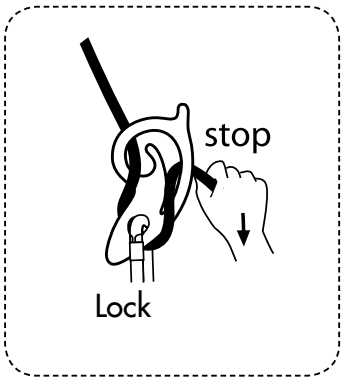
TAKING IN ROPE / THE FIVE STEP METHOD

N.B. Always hold the braking side of the rope.



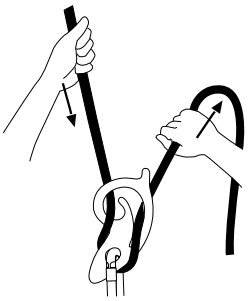
- The assisted braking, locking and unlocking functions of the device should always be checked before use.

The braking side of the rope must be held at all times.

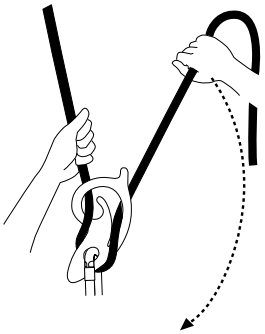


TAKING IN ROPE / SIMPLIFIED METHOD

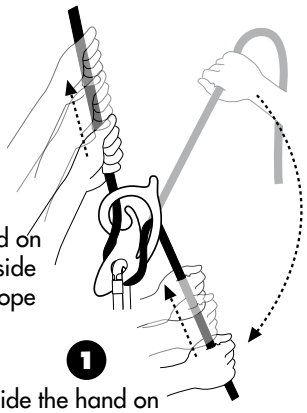
N.B. Always hold the braking side of the rope



Pull the braking side of the rope out of the "9", push the climber's side of the rope into the "9"

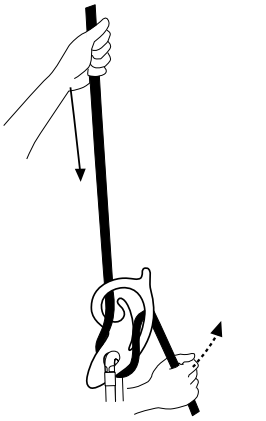


lower the braking hand to lock the rope in the V-Shaped Slot (3)



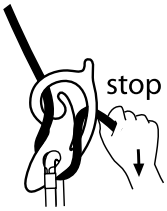
2 Slide the hand on the climber's side back up the rope

1 Slide the hand on the braking side of the rope back up towards the "9"

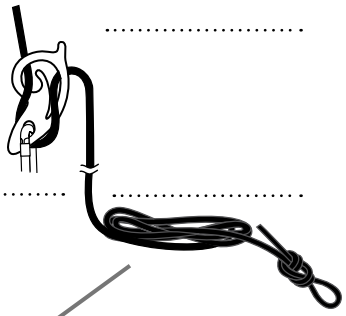


Go back to the start position

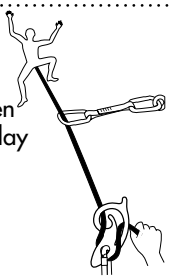
6 LOCK :

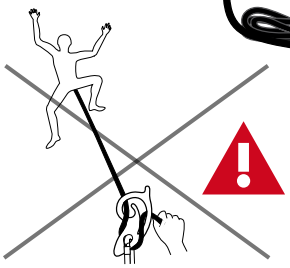


- For a good locking action you should pull the rope to the bottom of the V-Shaped Slot (3).

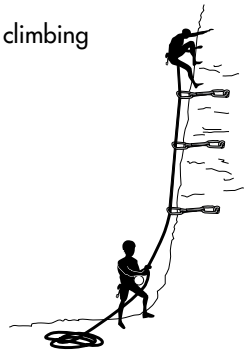


- The reserve of rope on the braking side of the rope must be kept below the belay device.





- The rope must pass through a directional anchor when bringing up a second or when the leader leaves the belay on a multi-pitch climb.

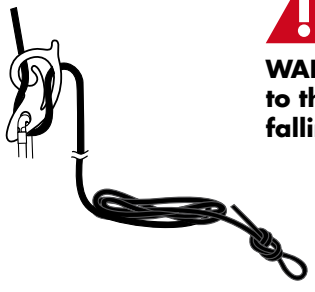


- The belayer must be standing near to the cliff / climbing wall.

WARNING:

The device should be able to operate freely at all times, this may not be the case if it is touching the cliff / climbing wall. The function of the device must not be hindered by obstacles (e.g. branches caught in the V-Shaped Slot, etc…)

The reserve of rope on the braking side of the rope must be kept below the belay device.

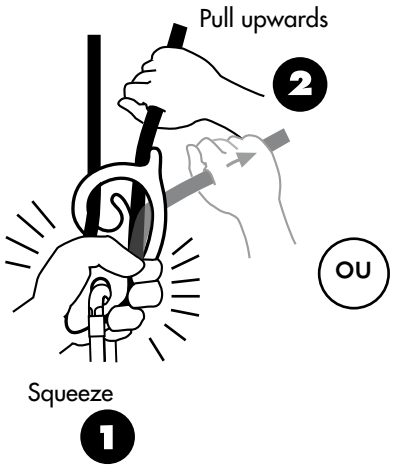


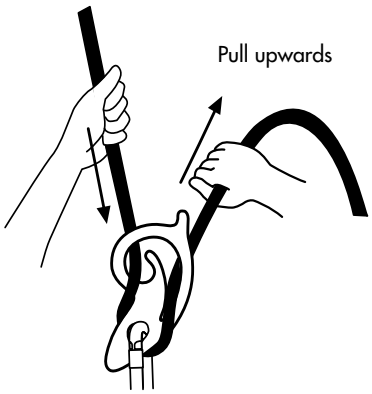
WARNING: The belayer must be attached to the belay point to avoid the risk of falling if belaying from a ledge.

7 UNLOCK :

- Use your non-braking hand to perform the squeeze technique (see chapter 4 GETTING STARTED: techniques to learn) then pull the braking side of the rope up and out of the V-Shaped Slot (3) using your braking hand.
- Unlocking can also be achieved by initiating a "climbing the rope" movement (see chapter 11 **CLIMBING THE ROPE**)

NB : It may sometimes be necessary to use two hands to unlock the rope before the Squeeze Technique can be used (for example after a significant fall).



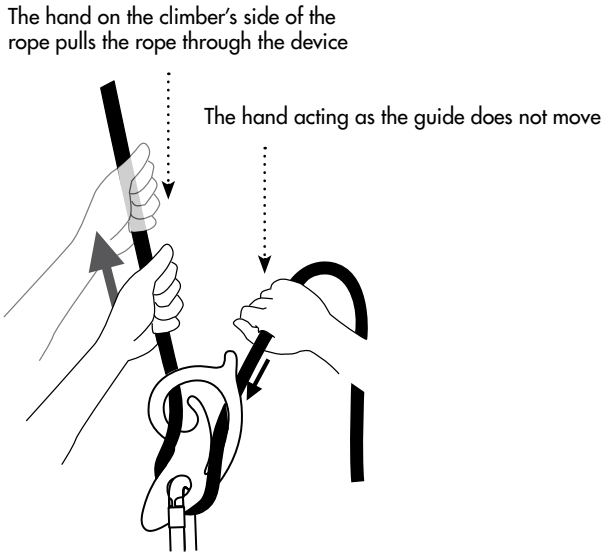


Unlock using a "climbing the rope" movement

8 GIVING OUT ROPE: Always hold the braking side of the rope

- To give out rope the hand on the braking strand of the rope must stay above the device in order to prevent the assisted braking action from locking the rope (see the Guide Hand Technique, chapter 4 GETTING STARTED: techniques to learn)

Unlock the rope if necessary then use the hand on the braking side of the rope as a guide to keep the rope out of the V-Shaped Slot (3). Give out rope by pulling the climber's side of the rope out of the device using your non-braking hand.
The hand keeping the braking side of the rope can either move with the rope or stay in a fixed position and allow the rope to slide through the fingers (see the Guide Hand Technique).
Hands should return to their start positions between two sequences of giving out rope.

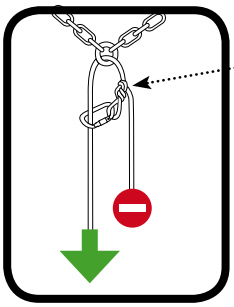


Giving out rope

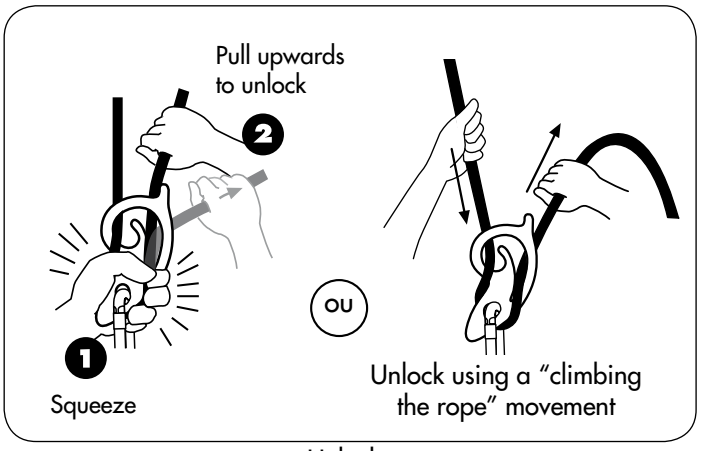
9 LOWERING A CLIMBER ON A TOP ROPE / ABSEILING WITH ASSISTED BRAKING FUNCTION

The abseil is done on a single rope (1)

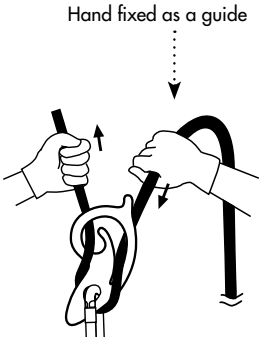
• The unlocking action leads naturally into lowering the climber / abseiling.Control the rate of decent using your hands on the braking side of the rope.This position retains the assisted braking function should the rope be dropped.



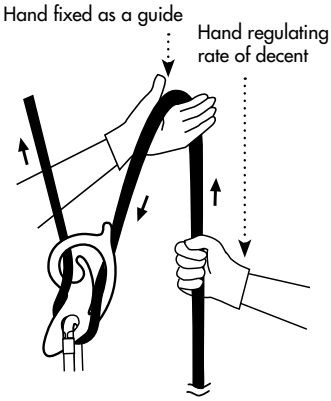
Preparing a single rope abseil



Unlock



Abseil method 1



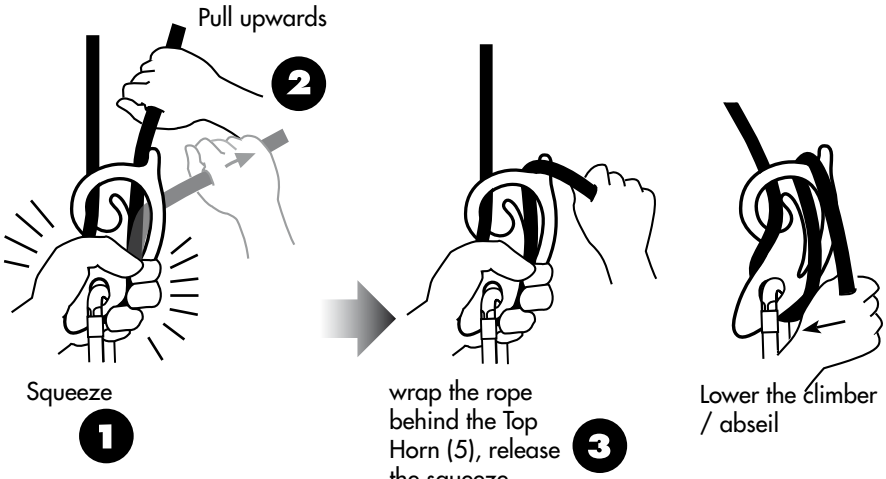
Abseil method 2

9.1 LOWERING A CLIMBER ON A TOP ROPE / ABSEILING WITHOUT ASSISTED BRAKING FUNCTION

•Using the Top Horn (5).
Using the Top Horn (5) allows the climber to be lowered whilst keeping the hand on the braking side of the rope below the belay device.

WARNING: the assisted braking function does not work in this position. Changing into this position must either be done in a dynamic way or by releasing the rope from the V-Shaped Slot (3) whilst holding the rope in place around the Lower Horn (2) of the device using the Squeeze Technique (see chapter 4 GETTING STARTED: techniques to learn).

The assisted braking function does not work in this position. Always keep a hand on the braking side of the rope.



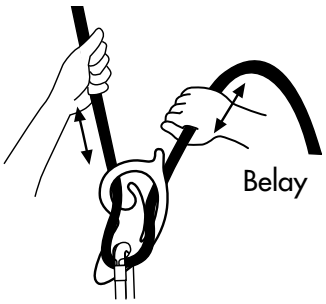
• At all times, be careful to keep a good grip on the braking side of the rope.
• Whilst lowering, do not let the rope "jump" off the Top Horn (5).
• Always keep the palm of your belay hand facing into the body.

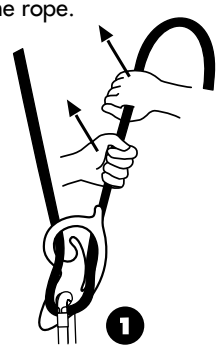
N.B. Always keep a hand on the braking side of the rope.

10 RAPID POSITION

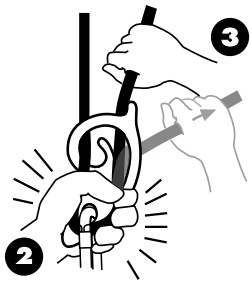
It is Prohibited to use the Rapid Position if the belayer risks being lifted off the ground (e.g. at the start of an overhanging climb).

- To change from the Traditional Position to the Rapid Position, simply move the loop of rope out from behind the Lower Horn (2).
- When using the "9" in the Rapid Position there is less friction between the device and the rope making it easier to give out rope, however this reduction in friction can mean less control of the rope when unlocking.
- It is necessary to use the Squeeze Technique when unlocking the rope before using the Top Horn (5) to lower a climber on a top rope (see chapter 4 GETTING STARTED: techniques to learn).
- When belaying on slabby cliffs it is possible for an experienced belayer to use the Rapid Position.
- The Rapid Position is not advised when belaying at the beginning of a pitch or on steep or overhanging cliffs as unlocking the rope can be difficult or dangerous.
- Using two hands when unlocking the rope can improve your grip on the rope.

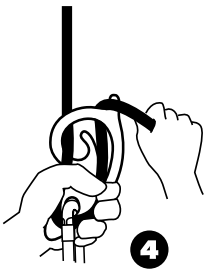




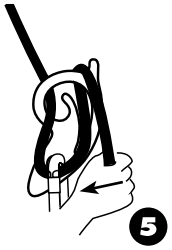
Unlock with two hands



Squeeze

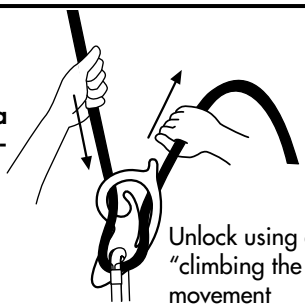


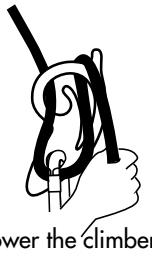
wrap the rope behind the top horn, release the squeeze

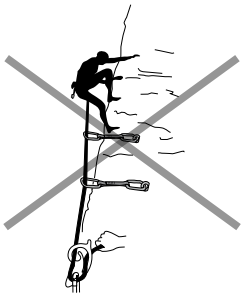


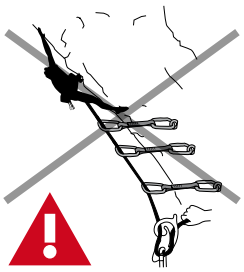
Lower the climber

NB : Unlocking can also be achieved by initiating a "climbing the rope" movement (see chapter 11 (CLIMBING THE ROPE), the climber can then be lowered.

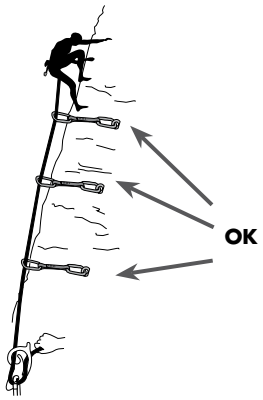

Unlock using a "climbing the rope" movement


Lower the climber



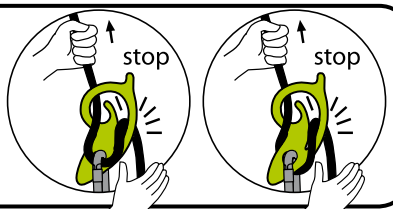


Before changing to the Rapid Position at least 5 quickdraws need to have been clipped (3 on a slabby cliff).



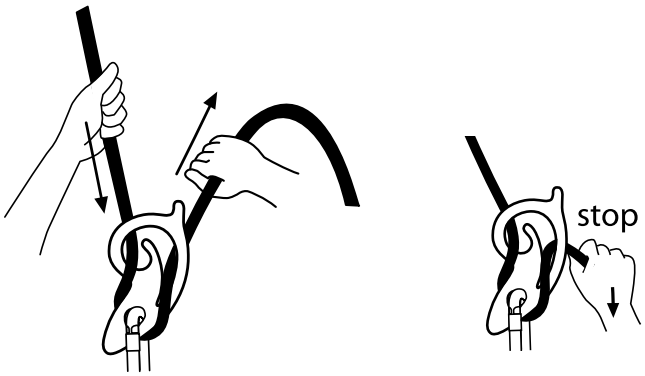
NB: The Rapid Position can be an advantage when using a stiff rope

Whether using the Rapid or Traditional Position, always check the function of the system.



11 CLIMBING THE ROPE

- It is also possible to climb a rope using the "9"
- It is necessary to have a second stopping device above the "9" with a step, and to lock the brake side of the rope into the V-Shaped Slot (3) between sequences.



12 CHECKING, MAINTENANCE, STORAGE AND REPLACEMENT :

- This device must be checked before and after each use.
- Any kind of deformation, visible abrasion, cracks or corrosion requires an immediate and permanent replacement. The same applies in the case of an exceptional impact, or after a severe fall.
- Do no put the device into contact with chemical substances.
- At best, the device should not be used for longer than 10 years.
- The "9" is recyclable.

•All techniques that are crossed out or have a warning sign are Prohibited.

Please refer to our website regularly for the most up-to-date version of these instructions.

www.9spirit.com